	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION REPORT	REPORT	
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- 1. The value of the Czechoslovak Army has greatly decreased since the February events which had ominous repercussions within its organizational structure.
- 2. Even before February the morale of the Officers' Corps and the quality of the Army suffered by such practices as re-activating of former officers, intensified surveillance of Army members of all ranks by the (Defensive Sector of the) Intelligence Service as well as by the State Security Service, hasty pronotions and appointments to higher - in many cases the most important positions of those professing the Eastern ideology. Mutual distrust, lack of the spirit of comradeship, fear and suspicion, outlook of insecurity for the future, demunciation - these are current phenomena in the Czechoslovak Army today. Sidetracking or dismissal of all officers, warrant officers and long term NCOs who, in the opinion of those in power are not acceptable to the present regime because of their uncompromising attitude or even an open defiance of the Communist Party and its practical politics, further lowered the quality of the Officers' Corps and the Army. Immediately following the February events, those suspected of being oriented towards the West and of collaboration with the Western democracies were dismissed from the Army. Following a direct intervention by the Central Action Corrittee of the National Front, 25 generals were dismissed (i.e. sent on leave pending further decision, or retired), among them General of the Army Alois Liska, Commander of the War College; Division General Heliodor Pika, Deputy Chief of the General Staff; Division General Karel Janousek; Division General Neumann, (Arry) Economy Commissar; General K. Kutlvaser, Deputy Chief of the Third Military District and others. The purge is still in progress; by the end of June the number of officers, warrant officers, and long term NCOs dismissed from the Army had reached 1,200-1,300.
- 3. The most radical steps taken were against members of the former Czechoslovak Nestern Army and especially against former Air Force members who have British, American or French wives. Of those who had served in the RAF during the war only 16 have remained in the Army, but even this small number is not final. By the loss of about 250 fliers with war experience, the total number of members of the Air Force Officers' Corps has been decreased by approximately 12 percent. Similar steps have been taken with respect to Tank Corps and other special branches of the Service.

 [the purge of the Officers' Corps is to be continued and before the end of September 1948 a50X1-HUM further 5,000-6,000 will have been dismissed. These measures, as far as an be judged from certain signs and reports, are a direct consequence of the reprimends

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suffered by the Czechoslovak representatives at the Cominform meeting in Warsaw criticizing the unreliability, inadequate training, and insufficient armament and equipment of the Czechoslovak Army.

- 4. It is justifiable to say that the greater part of the present Officers' Corps and of the men (up to 70%) is anti-Communist. The Army in this sense reflects public opinion. In all the strata of the Czechoslovak population there is a marked rise in feeling against the regime.
- The original strength of the Grechoelovak peacetime Army which was agreed upon after the liberation proved to be too large and expensive not only in relation to the total number of population of the country but also because of the fact that it was impossible to procure the necessary armament and equipment for so large a peacetime army, let alone an army in mobilization strength. The lack of armaments and equipment was such that as early as 1946 the number of higher units (i.e. divisions and brigades) was proportionately decreased. That was insufficient, however, and therefore the Crechoslovak Military Administration decided further to decrease the total number of peacetime Army personnel as well as the number of higher units. In the fall of 1947, the Crechoslovak Military Administration, after further study of all possibilities, came to the conclusion that the strength of the Crechoslovak peacetime Army cannot exceed 150,000 including officers, warrant officers, long term NCOs, and civil' employees (totalling about 10,000). The length of the compulsory military training being two years, the annual contingent of (new) recruits has been fixed at 52,000 and the number of mon in the so-called Supplementary Reserve at 5,000 (Supplementary Reserve consists of men entitled, on the basis of the Compulsory Military Service Act, to certain alleviations, especially with respect to the length of service); this means that there are in Crechoslovakia at any one time 105,000 recruits in training.
- 6. The fixing of the annual contingent at the above number has influenced the military potentialities of Ozechoslovakia and necessitated further reorganization of the peacetime Army. The plans for the reorganization of the Army of peacetime strength into a cadre for the vartime Army have been worked out by the Ministry of National Defense. These plans were discussed at a meeting of the Highest State Defense Council presided over by the President of the Republic. The Highest State Defense Council approved the plans of the Ministry of National Defense to present the matter before the Cabinet. The Cabinet took cognizance of the Council's proposals and approved the proposed strength of the peacetime Army.
- 7. The Czechoalovak Army at present is organized in the following geographic and functional subdivisions:
 - a. A Military Districts (oblasti):
 - 1. Praha
 - 2. Tabor
 - 3. Brno
 - 4. Bratislava
 - b. 5 Corps (sbory):
 - 1. Litomerice
 - 2. Hradec Kralove
 - 3. Pilsen
 - 4. Brno
 - 5. Trencin
 - Li Higher Units (numbered regardless of whether they are motorized, normal or independent):

1st Division (normal), Ceske Budejovice 2nd Brigade (independent), Banska Bystrica) 3rd Division (motorized), Kromeriz

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4th Division (motorized), Zilina
   5th Division (motorized), Praha
 6th Division (normal), Brno
7th Division (independent), Novy Jicin
8th Division (motorized), Kolin
9th Division (normal), Hitra
10th Division (normal), Kosice
11th Division (normal), Pilson
12th Division (normal), Litomerice
13th Division (normal), Mada Boleslay
14th Brigade (independent), Karlsbad (Karlovy Vary)
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- d. 1 Tank Corps (2 Tank Brigades)
- Independent Artillery Units: 1 Artillery Division and several heavy and mixed Artillery Brigades.
- Air Force: Organized in Corps.
- 1 Cavalry Brigade located at Pardubico.
- Engineers: 4 Engineer Regiments and 1 Railroad Brigade.
- 5 Communication (Signal) Regiments.
- J. Military Schools:
 - 1) War College, coupled with the School of Army Administration (plus courses for high Army Officers), Prague.

Military Academy, Hranice

- 3) Air Force Academy, Hradec Kralove 4) Air Force School, Prostejov 5) Infantry School, Milovice
- Infantry School, Milovice
- Artillery School, Olomoue Engineer School, Litomerice
- 8) Railroad Transportation School, Pardubice
- Communications (Signal) School, Nove Mesto Nad Vahom
- 10) Cavalry School, Pardubice

In addition to these schools, there are various courses for Reserve Officers.

- Services: Medical, Administrative, Quartermaster, Motor Transportation, Ordnance, etc.
- 8. This reorganization went into effect in 1947. The results, however, did not meet expectations. The Army was burdened by various tasks which bear no direct relationship to its main function; Army members were assigned to work in the mines, in the fields, etc.; a large number of personnel has been placed on detached service to the various Headquarters, public offices, and institutions. The result was a substantial decrease in strength of the units concerned, so that it became impossible to carry on with the normal training of the troops. For that reason the Czechoslovak Military Administration having transferred the larger part of the Czechoslovak Army to the west of Bohemia (in order to secure the border of the Republic, at least partly against the West), decided to reduce to cadre strength some of the higher units located in the central and eastern part of the country and to transfer others. The officers and men thus made available were used to reinforce the units in Western Bohemia. In line with this decision, the following changes were effected:
 - a. The 7th Brigade in Novy Jicin was reduced to cadre strength and the supernumeraries used to reinforce the 14th Brigade located in Karlsbad (Karlovy Vary).

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- b. The 13th Division in Mada Boleslav, with the exception of the 4th Regiment, was reduced to cadre strength and the supermmaries used to reinforce the 11th Division located in Pilsen, the 14th Brigade in Karlsbad (Karlovy Vary), and the 1st Division in Ceake Budejovice.
- c. Partly reduced were some of the units of the 9th Division located at Nitra and of the 10th Division at Kocice. The supermomeraries in this case were transferred to the 2nd Brigade in Banska Bustrica.
- In view of the size of the area at the Czechoslovak-Bavarian border covered by the 1st and 11th Divisions, the 2nd Brigade was transferred from Banska 9. Bystrica (Headquarters now located at Pisek) and assigned to the area between Vimperk and Klatovy. One Regiment of the 13th Division (4th Infantry Regiment, Hradec Kralove) was transferred to the Pilsen area as a reserve. Furthermore, by reduction to cadre strength of the Anti-Tank Artillery, the number of personnel of the Anti-Tank Regiment in Slamy was raised to wartime strength. In Pacov, Southern Bohemia, the Anti-Tank outfit was reorganized and changed into an independent Anti-Tank Regiment in wartime strength. The Engineer and Communication (Signal) Units of the 5th and the 12th Divisons as well as those of the 2nd and 14th Brigades were reinforced; these, however, were left at their stations. The 3rd, 4th, 5th and 8th Motorized Divisions were left in their garrisons but preparations have been made for their instantaneous integration in case of need. Furthermore, the motorized Divisions were issued orders to keep in readiness one unit equivalent to a Motorized Infantry Company with heavy machine-guns and one unit (troop) of arrored cars. Finally, the Motor Transport Corps were issued orders to keep in readiness in two (Motor Transport) Regiments one convoy consisting of 20 trucks.
- 10. All these measures started to be put into effect after the conclusion of training of higher units in training camps (in June 1948) and they have to be completed as soon as possible.
- 11. Changes in the existing mobilization orders will take place only after the present mobilization period which expires at the end of February 1949. Orders and directives for the coming mobilization period are now being prepared by the General Staff and will be distributed to the individual units in the falls on the basis of these orders and directives, new mobilization plans, coming into effect in March 1949, will be worked out.
- 12. According to the present mobilization plans and depending upon the quality and quantity of armaments and equipment, the present (peacetime) units, called A Units, are to be mobilized first; in the second viace, reserve units, called B Units, will be formed (of those peacetime units with inferior armaments and equipment); or, eventually, a B unit ray be formed from parts of two or three A units.
- As far as armaments and equipment of the Czechoslovak Army are concerned, they are of limited quantity and diverse origin. The larger part of the materiel is of German origin. Next in quantity is the (pre-war) Czechoslovak materiel, then the Russian, British, and, to a limited extent, American materiel with which the Czechoslovak units abroad were equipped during the war. The USSR 50X1-HUM agreed to equip 10 divisions but delivered equipment and armaments for only 6 divisions. The stores of ammunition are greatly limited. Tank units are 50X1-HUM equipped with heterogeneous material (Soviet Czechoslovak New types of tanks are not available and, so far, are not being produced.

14. The standard of the Czechoslovak Air Force is low not only in regard to personnel whose quality has deteriorated as a result of the purge but also with respect to its material, which is of diverse origin. The greater part of the airmant is of German origin (Messersolmidts, Junkers 52, and Siebels), then

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50X1-HUM the Soviet fighters,

- 15. The worale of the Czechoslovak Army is at a low ebb. The reason is the discontent and disgust of the rank and file with the two-year service, a part of which must be spent in the so-called work brigades (in the mines, in agriculture, etc.). A soldier in a work brigade must maintain military discipline, and at the same time work as any other worker but without the benefits of civilian workers. A further element contributing to the low morale of the Army is the dislike of the regime and its ideology. The Enlightenment Service in the Army, although it is devoted to the present regime, has not been able to attain such results in the "education" of Army personnel as would be desirable from the standpoint of those in power.
- 16. The institution of Folitical Commissars has not been introduced in the Czechoslovak Army so far, but the Enlightenment Officers serve the same purpose to a great extent, as they claim the right to interfere in such matters as classification of Army personnel, promotions and transfers, assignment to functions, etc. The influence of Enlightenment Officers is evident everywhere.
- 17. The low morale prevailing in the Officers Corps only contributes to the further decline of the rorale of the Army as a whole. Since the purge has hit a large percentage of the most highly qualified officers a conviction is spreading rapidly that it is not honorable for an honest, patriotic, and democratic Gzechoslovak Officer to serve in the present Army.
- 18. The anticipated further purge of the Officers' Corps will probably leave an Army faithful to the regime but of a very low value from the standpoint of military efficiency.

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